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News

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STATE AND REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1988

Unemployment rates for 1988 were lower in 45 states and the District of Columbia than in 1987, according to annual average estimates released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The national unemployment rate for all civilian workers, at 5.5 percent, was seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 1987 annual average figure of 6.2 percent.

Large jobless rate disparities between regions and divisions continued to be evident. For the four Census regions, the rates varied from 4.0 percent for the Northeast to 6.1 percent for the South. Differences were even broader for the nine Census divisions, where rates ranged from 3.1 percent for New England to 7.8 percent for the West South Central division. (See table 1, which includes a description of the states included in each region and division.)

States with unemployment rates lower than the national average were concentrated on the East Coast and the central plains. Higher-than-average rates continued to be in the states heavily engaged in oil, gas, and mineral extraction, as well as in the highly industrialized states of the Midwest. (See map.)

Four states had 1988 unemployment rates over 8 percent--Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Virginia. All four, however, had substantially lower rates than in 1987. Wyoming experienced the largest decrease with a drop of 2.3 percentage points, from 8.6 to 6.3 percent. Louisiana, at 10.9 percent, continued to have the highest jobless rate--and was also the only one in double digits--while New Hampshire, at 2.4 percent, continued to have the lowest. (See table 2.)

Declines in unemployment rates took place in all Census regions and divisions. The largest were in the West South Central and Mountain divisions, where the rates dropped a full percentage point, to 7.8 and 6.2 percent, respectively. Rates decreased by nearly this magnitude in the East South Central, East North Central, and West North Central divisions.

Note: The 1987 population and labor force estimates have been revised to reflect updated state population estimates used as controls for the Current Population Survey. Unemployment rates were unaffected by these revisions.

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All estimates presented in this release, except those for Puerto Rico, were derived from the Current Population Survey, a sample survey of about 55,800 households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census. A description of the survey and information about the reliability of the state estimates appear in Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1987, Bulletin 2305.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by census region and division, 1987-88 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Region and division	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range 1988[1]
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	
United States[2]	182,753	184,613	119,865	121,669	112,440	114,968	7,425	6,701	6.2	5.5	5.4 - 5.6
Northeast	39,843	39,267	24,940	25,200	23,820	24,181	1,121	1,019	4.5	4.0	3.9 - 4.2
New England	9,971	10,062	6,829	6,918	6,601	6,701	228	216	3.3	3.1	2.9 - 3.3
Middle Atlantic	29,872	29,205	18,111	18,281	17,219	17,479	892	803	4.9	4.4	4.2 - 4.6
Midwest	44,835	45,165	29,845	30,266	27,858	28,517	1,987	1,749	6.7	5.8	5.6 - 5.9
East North Central	31,619	31,858	20,780	21,066	19,292	19,746	1,488	1,320	7.2	6.3	6.1 - 6.5
West North Central	13,216	13,307	9,065	9,200	8,565	8,771	499	429	5.5	4.7	4.4 - 4.9
South	62,327	63,180	40,583	41,285	37,822	38,757	2,760	2,527	6.8	6.1	6.0 - 6.3
South Atlantic	31,560	32,285	20,650	21,304	19,591	20,285	1,059	1,019	5.1	4.8	4.6 - 5.0
East South Central	11,374	11,496	7,068	7,092	6,501	6,589	567	503	8.0	7.1	6.7 - 7.5
West South Central	19,393	19,399	12,865	12,889	11,730	11,885	1,135	1,004	8.8	7.8	7.5 - 8.1
West	36,622	37,116	24,550	24,998	22,994	23,581	1,556	1,409	6.3	5.6	5.4 - 5.8
Mountain	9,528	9,624	6,417	6,493	5,954	6,090	462	404	7.2	6.2	5.9 - 6.5
Pacific	27,094	27,492	18,133	18,497	17,040	17,491	1,093	1,005	6.0	5.4	5.2 - 5.7

1/ Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level.

2/ Because of separate processing and weighting procedures, totals for the United States differ from the results obtained by aggregating the data for regions and divisions. Moreover, due to independent adjustment, data for divisions may not add to regional totals.

NOTE: The States which compose the census regions and divisions are: Northeast Region:

New England Division: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Middle Atlantic Division: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Midwest Region:

East North Central Division: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

West North Central Division: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

South Region:

South Atlantic Division: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

East South Central Division: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

West South Central Division: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

West Region:

Mountain Division: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Pacific Division: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by State, 1987-88 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

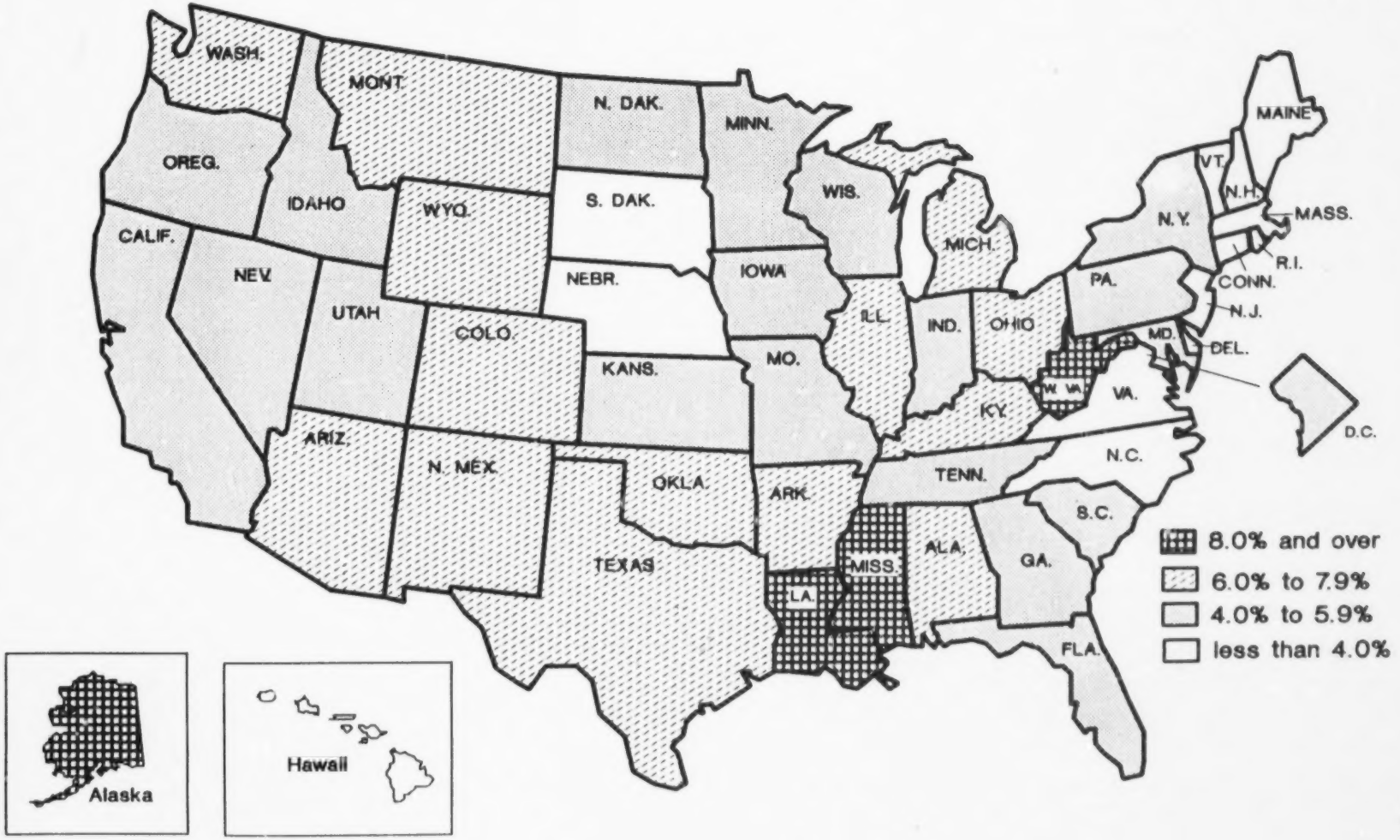
State	Population		Civilian labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error range 1988 1/
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	
Alabama	3,039	3,080	1,895	1,887	1,748	1,751	147	136	7.8	7.2	6.4 - 8.0
Alaska	344	336	248	242	221	219	27	23	10.8	9.3	8.6 - 10.4
Arizona	2,510	2,562	1,612	1,654	1,511	1,550	101	104	6.2	6.3	5.6 - 7.0
Arkansas	1,780	1,809	1,092	1,123	1,003	1,037	89	86	8.1	7.7	6.8 - 8.5
California	20,512	20,840	13,729	14,036	12,938	13,292	791	743	5.8	5.3	5.0 - 5.6
Colorado	2,436	2,435	1,694	1,699	1,564	1,590	130	109	7.7	6.4	5.7 - 7.2
Connecticut	2,506	2,527	1,752	1,746	1,695	1,694	58	52	3.3	3.0	2.5 - 3.5
Delaware	490	500	332	349	321	338	11	11	3.2	3.2	2.7 - 3.6
District of Columbia	475	473	331	337	310	320	21	17	6.3	5.0	4.4 - 5.7
Florida	9,430	9,699	5,870	6,104	5,558	5,800	312	305	5.3	5.0	4.7 - 5.3
Georgia	4,560	4,693	3,055	3,192	2,888	3,007	168	185	5.5	5.8	5.2 - 6.4
Hawaii	761	773	513	516	493	500	20	16	3.8	3.2	2.6 - 3.6
Idaho	711	712	473	475	435	447	38	28	8.0	5.8	5.2 - 6.6
Illinois	8,735	8,725	5,751	5,766	5,328	5,374	423	392	7.4	6.8	6.4 - 7.2
Indiana	4,161	4,208	2,752	2,817	2,577	2,668	176	150	6.4	5.3	4.7 - 6.0
Iowa	2,139	2,149	1,449	1,500	1,369	1,433	80	67	5.5	4.5	3.9 - 5.1
Kansas	1,831	1,838	1,267	1,277	1,205	1,216	62	61	4.9	4.8	4.2 - 5.4
Kentucky	2,774	2,784	1,684	1,710	1,536	1,575	148	134	8.8	7.9	7.0 - 8.7
Louisiana	3,198	3,179	1,949	1,921	1,715	1,712	234	209	12.0	10.9	9.9 - 11.8
Maine	898	915	587	598	561	576	26	22	4.4	3.8	3.1 - 4.2
Maryland	3,453	3,531	2,405	2,465	2,303	2,355	102	110	4.2	4.5	3.9 - 5.1
Massachusetts	4,587	4,596	3,086	3,144	2,987	3,041	99	103	3.2	3.3	3.0 - 3.5
Michigan	6,939	7,025	4,529	4,580	4,159	4,232	370	348	8.2	7.6	7.2 - 8.0
Minnesota	3,199	3,241	2,261	2,327	2,139	2,233	122	94	5.4	4.0	3.5 - 4.6
Mississippi	1,878	1,891	1,152	1,144	1,035	1,048	117	96	10.2	8.4	7.5 - 9.2
Missouri	3,867	3,895	2,590	2,593	2,426	2,445	164	148	6.3	5.7	5.0 - 6.4
Montana	597	594	403	401	373	374	30	27	7.4	6.8	5.9 - 7.5
Nebraska	1,182	1,187	812	817	772	788	40	29	4.9	3.6	3.0 - 4.1
Nevada	765	804	556	587	522	556	35	30	6.3	5.2	4.5 - 5.8
New Hampshire	804	834	588	606	573	591	15	15	2.5	2.4	2.0 - 2.9
New Jersey	6,003	6,037	3,967	3,978	3,806	3,827	160	151	4.0	3.8	3.5 - 4.1
New Mexico	1,073	1,084	682	688	622	635	60	54	8.9	7.8	7.1 - 8.6
New York	13,768	13,798	8,490	8,522	8,078	8,164	412	358	4.9	4.2	3.9 - 4.5
North Carolina	4,809	4,912	3,276	3,343	3,130	3,222	146	121	4.5	3.6	3.4 - 3.9
North Dakota	483	478	331	329	314	313	17	16	5.2	4.8	4.2 - 5.5
Ohio	8,165	8,245	5,254	5,328	4,887	5,008	367	320	7.0	6.0	5.7 - 6.4
Oklahoma	2,403	2,401	1,565	1,533	1,449	1,431	115	102	7.4	6.7	5.9 - 7.4
Oregon	2,082	2,097	1,387	1,408	1,301	1,326	86	82	6.2	5.8	5.1 - 6.6
Pennsylvania	9,301	9,370	5,655	5,780	5,335	5,486	320	294	5.7	5.1	4.8 - 5.4
Rhode Island	763	770	519	526	500	510	20	16	3.8	3.1	2.5 - 3.5
South Carolina	2,499	2,561	1,634	1,680	1,543	1,604	91	76	5.6	4.5	3.9 - 5.1
South Dakota	515	519	355	358	340	344	15	14	4.2	3.9	3.4 - 4.5
Tennessee	3,683	3,741	2,336	2,351	2,182	2,214	154	136	6.6	5.8	5.1 - 6.5
Texas	12,012	12,010	8,257	8,306	7,560	7,702	697	606	8.4	7.3	6.9 - 7.7
Utah	1,087	1,097	757	759	709	722	48	37	6.4	4.9	4.2 - 5.5
Vermont	413	420	295	298	285	289	11	8	3.6	2.8	2.2 - 3.2
Virginia	4,394	4,469	2,996	3,093	2,869	2,973	127	120	4.2	3.9	3.3 - 4.4
Washington	3,395	3,446	2,255	2,295	2,085	2,153	171	141	7.6	6.2	5.4 - 6.9
West Virginia	1,450	1,447	750	763	669	669	81	74	10.8	9.9	9.0 - 10.9
Wisconsin	3,619	3,655	2,494	2,575	2,342	2,465	152	110	6.1	4.3	3.7 - 4.9
Wyoming	349	336	240	232	219	217	21	15	8.6	6.3	5.7 - 7.3
Puerto Rico 2/	2,310	2,321	1,019	1,058	848	900	171	158	16.8	15.0	(3)

1/ Error ranges are shown at the 90-percent confidence level.

2/ The source of this data is the Employment Security Agency of Puerto Rico.

3/ Not available.

Unemployment Rates by State, 1988 Annual Averages



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